

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

- 5 A hyperbaric capsule has a base forming a seat that can be enclosed by an elongate
oval canopy having a large transparent window formed therein. The bottom of the
front of the canopy is pivotally attached to the front of the base by a hinge assembly
and can be locked in the closed position on the base by a plurality of latches that are
conjointly operated by an external lever and an internal lever. The weight of the
10 canopy upon opening is borne by a pair of side gas or spring struts.